Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04 PA-01 PRS-01 /062 W

-----241052Z 018960/15

R 240826Z MAY 77 FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7779 INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT UR SOCI

SUBJECT: FOOD SUPPLIES IN ROSTOV AND AZOV, MAY 18-19

SUMMARY: MEAT SUPPLIES IN ROSTOV-ON-DON AND AZOV WERE BARELY ADEQUATE. NO SHORTAGES OF OTHER FOODSTUFFS. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFFS FOUND LIMITED SUPPLIES OF PROK (4 2.80/KILO), AND PORK FAT (R 2.50) AT ROSTOV'S CENTRAL YARMARKA MARKET AT 1000 MAY 18. THERE WERE SHORT LINES FOR BOTH. LOTS OF LARD WAS ON SALE, FOR R 2, AS WELL AS SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES OF WHOLE SMALL CHICKENS (R 10-11) AND WHOLE SKINNED RABBITS (R 10). THE ONLY BEEF WE SAW WAS STEW MEAT, SELLING FOR R 2.56 AT A KIOSK AT THE CORNER OF GAZETNIY PERIULOK AND MOSKOVSKAYA ULITSA. THERE WAS A FAIRLY LONG LINE AT 1700 MAY 19 HERE. FROZEN FISH WAS ABUNDANT AT THE STATE STORE AT 23 ENGELSA, AS WAS FRESH FISH AT THE STATE STORE AT 25 PODBEL'SKOGO PERIULOK. FORZEN FISH PRICES RANGED FROM R 1.60 - 40 KOPECKS; FRESH FISH SOLD FOR R 2.20 - 90 K.

2. BREAD WAS PLENTIFUL THROUGHOUT THE CITY. FOR EXAMPLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AT THE STATE STORE AT THE CORNER OF ENGELSA AND UL CHEKOVA, AT 0915 MAY 18, THE FOLLOWING PRICES OBTAINED (SUPPLIES ABUNDANT): WHITE (FIRST SORT) 13 K FOR SMALL LOAF; BORWN (2ND SORT): 16 K; BEIGE (FIRST SORT): 20 FOR LARGE LOAF. ALSO ON SALE WERE NEW UKRANIAN WHITE AT 14 K FOR SMALL LOAF; SARATOVSKIY BEIGE, AT 27 K; AND DONSKOY SPECIAL WHITE, AT 40 K PER LOAF.

3. OTHER ITEMS AT THE YARMARKA WERE PRICED AS FOLLOWS: EGGS R 1.10 FOR TEN, BUTTER R 1.30/KILO, TOMATOES R 6; CUCUMBERS R 1.50, ONIONS 60 K, CABBAGE R 1.50, RADISHES 30 K, LETTUCE, 15 K FOR SMALL BUNCH, BEETS, 30K , APPLES R 1.5 - 5 DEPENDING ON AGE AND FIRMNESS, CARROTS, 80 K, SQUASH R 2, TURNIPS R 1.20, POTATOES 40 K, STRAWBERRIES R 5, CHERRIES R 3.50, LOCAL ORGANGES R 7. ONLY SUPPLIES OF TOMATOTES APPEARED LIMITED, AND THIS WAS PERHAPS SEASONAL.

4. IN AZOV (NEAR THE DON DELTA), WE SURVEYED THE COOPERATIVE STORES ON THE CENTRAL SQUARE OF THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL AT 1700 MAY 18. WE FOUND SEEMINGLY ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF GOOD-LOOKING BEEF AT R 2.90, AND ONE LAND SAID IT HAD BEEN ON SALE FOR OVER A WEEK, MORNING AND NIGHT. THERE WERE ADEQUATE BUT SOMEWHAT OLD-LOOKING VEGETABLES IN THE NEARBY STATE STORE, PRICED AS FOLLOWS: CABBAGE 45K/KILO, CARROTS 30 K, RADISHES 30 K, POTATOES 15 K, AND BEETS 12 K. THE SMALL LOCAL MARKET WAS REPORTEDLY OUT OF TOWN AND THRE WAS NOT TIME TO SURVEY IT.

5. COMMENT: WHILE MEAT WAS NOT PLENTIFUL IN EITHER ROSTOV-ON-DON OR AZOV, SUPPLIES WERE BETTER THAN IN MANY OTHER CITIES WE HAVE VISITED, PARTICULARLY TO THE NORTH. WE DID NOT HAVE THE IMPRESSION LOCAL CITIZENS FELT MUCH OF A PINCH IN THEIR DIETS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: SUPPLIES, REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, FOODS, MEATS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 24-May-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW07216
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D770184-0927

Format: TEL From: MOSCOW

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770524/aaaaaukp.tel Line Count: 89

Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b6ba568b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 08-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2392132 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

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To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b6ba568b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Review Markings:

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Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009